

Appln No. 10/665,303
Amdt date October 17, 2005
Reply to Office action of July 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 remain pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10-12 to more clearly define the patentable subject matter. Applicant has also amended the specification as requested by the Examiner. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance.

In the Office action dated July 15, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Houser, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,313,943) in view of Swanson, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0161422). However, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite that the catheter body comprises a non-conductive sleeve mounted in the lumen of the catheter body, wherein the inner member extends through the non-conductive sleeve. Neither Houser nor Swanson teach or suggest such a feature. Therefore, independent claim 1 and all claims dependent therefore, including claims 2-7 and 10-12 are allowable over Houser and Swanson.

The Examiner also rejected claims 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Houser in view of Swanson and further in view of Littman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,610). However, Littman fails to remedy the deficiencies of Houser and Swanson noted above and claim 1 is therefore also allowable over the combination of Houser, Swanson and Littman. Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and is allowable on that basis.

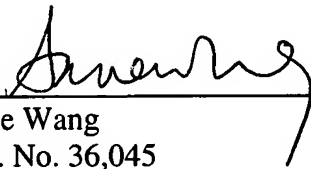
Finally, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Houser in view of Swanson and further in view of Ponzi (U.S. Patent No. 5,897,529). However, Ponzi also fails to remedy the deficiencies of Houser and Littman noted above and claim 1 is therefore also allowable over the combination of Houser, Littman and Ponzi. Claim 9 depends from claim 1 and is allowable on that basis.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely

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indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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